

Message Text

SECRET

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50

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04

DRC-01 OMB-01 /153 W

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P R 201205Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4977

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T LONDON 12232

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR - US OPENING STATEMENT

REF: STATE 207791

BRITISH HAVE OF COURSE BEEN ANXIOUS ABOUT CONCEPT OF
COMMON CEILING, BUT RETREATED ON THAT ISSUE SOME TIME AGO.
HAVING ACQUIESCED, THEY THINK THAT USE OF "PARITY" IN
ORIGINAL DRAFT OF US OPENING STATEMENT WAS IMPRECISE,
AND COULD LEAD TO DIFFICULTIES WITH WARSAW PACT.
BRITISH HAVE POINTED OUT THAT PARITY, IF NOT DEFINED IN
TERMS OF COMMON CEILING FOR GROUND FORCES, COULD IMPLY
THAT IT COVERS BOTH MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT. GIVEN THE
DISPARITIES
IN EQUIPMENT OF NATO AND WP AND GENERAL NATO
DESIRE TO REDUCE OFFENSIVE ELEMENTS OF WP WHICH NATO
CONSIDERS PARTICULARLY MENACING, BRITISH THINK PARITY
CONCEPT SHOULD AT LEAST BE MODIFIED (AS IT NOW IS IN
LATEST DRAFT OF US STATEMENT VIENNA 8689) BY BEING
EXPRESSED TERMS OF COMMON CEILING. IN ANY EVENT, BRITISH
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HAVE MADE THE POINT TO US ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS THAT THEY

HAD THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS WHAT US WANTED, AND IN
CIRCUMSTANCES WERE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH US.

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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